

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2404
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
FAA BRUSSELS

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DEPARTMENT PLS PASS FAA AIA-1 AND AED-2

PARIS FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, SP
SUBJ: FAA PROPOSAL FOR ATC COOPERATION: PIERRE-FERGUSSON
CONVERSATIONS WITH SPANISH AIR MINISTRY

REF: MADRID 4679, PARIS 17126

1. FAA REVISED PROPOSALS BEING REVIEWED BY VARIOUS SERVICES OF AIR MINISTRY WHICH WILL REPORT TO COL. CESTEROS, DIR. GEN. AIRPORTS, BY END JULY. INITIAL COMMENTS MADE BY CESTEROS, BASED ON CURSORY REVIEW, WERE
 - A) FAA PROPOSAL SEEMS SATISFACTORY;
 - B) COST STILL APPEARS HIGH, ESPECIALLY AS CONCERNS PERSONNEL;
 - C) SOME STAFF MEMBERS FELT SUGGESTED SYSTEMS MAY HAVE EXCESSIVE CAPACITY. HOWEVER CESTEROS PERSONALLY DOES NOT SHARE THIS VIEW.
2. AFTER DETAILED REVIEW OF FAA PROPOSAL BY AIRMIN FERGUSSON OF EMBASSY MADRID WILL MEET WITH AIR MIN OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS

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FINAL COMMENTS ON FAA PROPOSAL.

3. IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH AIR MIN OFFICIALS FAA REP. PIERRE GOT IMPRESSION THEY STILL NOT COMPLETELY SOLD ON APPROACH SUGGESTED BY FAA ALTHOUGH ALL OFFICERS CONSULTED WERE IN FAVOR OF US DESIGNED SYSTEMS AS OPPOSED TO EUROCONTROL'S SUGGESTED PLAN. OBJECTIONS WERE THAT SYSTEMS MAY BE TOO SOPHISTICATED FOR SPANISH PERSONNEL. SINCE ATC REQUIREMENTS IN SPAIN ARE DIFFERENT FROM US, MANY FEATURES OF US SYSTEMS ARE NOT REQUIRED IN SPAIN. GENERALLY IMPRESSION GIVEN WAS THAT SPAIN STILL UNPREPARED FOR PROPOSED US SYSTEM. ONE SUGGESTION BROUGHT UP WAS FOR INTENSIVE TRAINING OF CONTROLLERS AND TECHNICIANS IN US PRIOR TO FINALIZING CHOICE OF SYSTEMS. DUE TO SLACK IN AIR TRAFFIC SOME OFFICIALS SAW NO URGENCY IN IMPLEMENTING PROGRAM AND THOUGHT THAT SPAIN'S REQUIREMENTS WERE FOR A SEMI-AUTOMATED SYSTEM IN PLACE AND OPERATING BY 1980 AND A FULLY AUTOMATED SYSTEM IN 1985.

4. FAA REP. PIERRE REMINDED AIR MIN OFFICIALS THAT FAA PROPOSAL INCLUDED MANY ANSWERS TO ABOVE OBSERVATIONS, NAMELY, JOINT STUDIES DURING PREPARATIONS OF PROPOSED SYSTEM, PROGRAM PLANS, DEFINITION OF SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR SPAIN, DEVELOPMENT OF EXTENSIVE PERSONNEL TRAINING PLANS, AND ON THE JOB TRAINING MONITORED BY FAA PERSONNEL.

5. ON THE OTHER HAND, AIR MINISTRY OFFICERS SAID THERE MAY BE EXTENSIVE REORGANIZATION WITHIN MINISTRY INCLUDING MERGERS OF DIRECTORATED GENERAL OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND AIRPORTS AND EMERGENCE OF NEW ROUTES DIVISION (ATC SERVICE) WITH ITS OWN PLANNING ENGINEERING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE SECTIONS. THERE ARE ALSO REMORS THAT ENTIRE CIVIL AVIATION UNDERSECRETARIAT MAY BE MOVED FROM AIR MIN TO SEPARATE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT WHICH SOME OBSERVERS SAY IS UNDER SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. IF CARRIED OUT THESE CHANGES, MAY HAVE IMPACT ON DECISION RE FAA PROPOSAL.

6. ANY SUGGESTIONS DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH TO SEND BEFORE MEETING OF PIERRE & FERGUSSON WITH AIR MIN, NOW PLANNED FOR JULY 28, WOULD BE HELPFUL. IN PARTICULAR, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BREAKDOWN CAAG PERSONNEL COSTS, SINCE LATTER STILL IMPRESS SPANISH AS HIGH.
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7. COMPLETE PIERRE REPORT WILL BE FORWARDED TO FAA AFTER JULY 28 MEETING.
STABLER

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Message Attributes

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